



Two-cents worth of political musing

With the General Election safely in our rearview mirror, here are some thoughts which might be worth as much as two cents in these days of inflation.

State Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, told Marion County residents last week that if the only votes counted in the General Election had come from Texas' 10 most populous counties, every Republican in a statewide race would have lost, including Gov. Greg Abbott.

No matter who you vote for you have a 50 percent chance of being right and a 75 percent chance of being wrong.

The reason it is so much easier to be cynical than optimistic about elections is ... experience.

Does anyone expect Ted Cruz to win another election?

Democrats have yet to learn that contempt for Trump, while understandable, is not a winning strategy.

Every time I vote for a judge whose bench is not within a 100-mile radius of my home, I think there must be a better way of picking judges.

What makes nation building right where there are oil fields and wrong in places where there are only poor people?

If you really hate someone, see if you can get him or her nominated to be a Supreme Court judge.

There should be room for Beto O'Rourke in government.

Was anyone other than Jeff Sessions surprised that he was fired? Was Sessions surprised?

The really amazing thing about democracy is that it works as well as it does.

The Independent: In the second installment of Lord of the Rings, we should meet Tree Beard who will help rescue Merry and Pippin. At one point the two Hobbits ask Tree Beard whose side is he on.

"I'm not altogether on anyone's side," Tree Beard replies, "because I don't think anyone is altogether on my side."

Marion County Offices

will be

Closed

10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Thursday, November 15, 2018

for an

Employee Benefits Meeting.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

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The French president is wrong

By MARC A. THIESSEN

There's nothing wrong with populist nationalism, American-style

When French President Emmanuel Macron denounced populist nationalism this week and called on world leaders to support institutions such as the United Nations that defend "the common good of the world," liberal elites cheered. The speech was seen as a rebuke of President Trump, whose opposition to "globalism" and embrace of "nationalism" are held up as signs of the decay of American conservatism and U.S. global leadership.

Sorry, but American conservatives were opposing the globalist project long before Trump arrived on the scene.

Back in the early 1990s, President Bill Clinton's soon-to-be deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, said openly that "all countries are basically social arrangements ... [that] are all artificial and temporary." He added, "Within the next hundred years ... nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single global authority." Conservatives, as opposed to liberals such as Talbott, don't see America as a temporary social arrangement. They recognize the march toward supranational global authority as fundamentally undemocratic, because it represents a growing concentration of power in the hands of unelected bureaucrats presiding over unaccountable institutions further and further removed from the people affected by their decisions.

As Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman explained in his 1962 classic, "Capitalism and Freedom": "If government is to exercise power, better in the county than in the state, better in the state than in Washington," because "if I do not like what my local community does ... I can move to another local community. If I do not like that my state does, I can move to another. If I do not like what Washington imposes, I have few alternatives in this world of jealous nations." Where, exactly, is one supposed to move when one does not like what global institutions impose?

American conservatives believe in international cooperation to address common challenges. But they refuse to cede American sovereignty to supranational institutions, or to see America tied down with thousands of Lilliputian threads spun out of treaties and institutions that constrain her freedom of action. They understand that what stopped the march of Nazism and Communism in the 20th century was not international law but the principled projection of power by the world's democracies led by a sovereign United States. And what prevents China from invading Taiwan, or North Korea from attacking South Korea, today is not fear of U.N. censure but fear of the U.S. military. A strong America is the only guarantor of world peace. That's why President George W. Bush withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and refused to join the International Criminal Court, and why President Trump is withdrawing from pacts such as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty today.

There is also nothing inherently wrong with populism. American conservatives have always been populists, because we believe that millions of individuals can make better decisions about their own lives than a cadre of elite central planners ever could. As the founder of the

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County Approves Election Building Security

By BOB PALMER, Jimplecute Editor Marion County commissioners approved purchase of security devices for the county election building and ongoing monitoring of the building when they met Tuesday.

County Clerk Vickie Smith said the election equipment stored at the building should be protected.

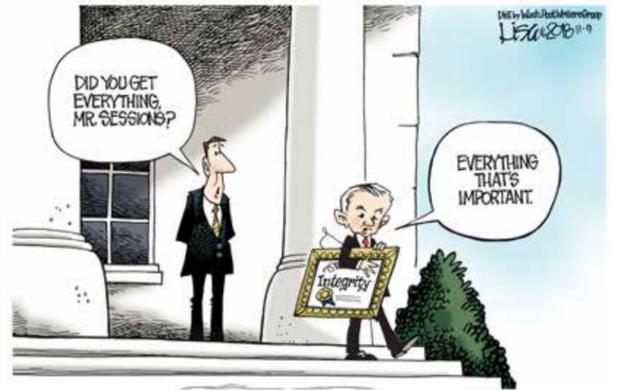
The equipment will cost \$915 with \$45 per month to monitor by Right Click Plus.

The court decided to take a different route to secure district clerk records, however.

District Clerk Susan Anderson said the material now kept in the hospital building contained sensitive data like Social Security Numbers.

Commissioners agreed to explore purchasing a climate-controlled storage building to be located at the airport for the records.

In other action the court updated the county CDL Drug and Alcohol Policy. The Nov. 26 meeting will be held on Nov. 29.



Where Do We Go When Journalism Fails Us?

By ERICK ERICKSON

This election should remind us how vital and necessary local journalism is to factual reporting. National media outlets routinely fell for stories about topics outside their knowledge base — stories specially crafted by political operatives wanting to shape narratives about campaigns.

All one need do is look at Georgia, where Secretary of State Brian Kemp won a closely watched governor's race against progressive darling Stacey Abrams. National reporters breathlessly reported stories about Kemp engaging in campaign shenanigans to such an extent that progressives are convinced he stole the race. What is most interesting is Georgia reporters never covered the stories or covered them with such a command of the facts that the national implications were shown to be partisan spin.

In southern Georgia, national reporters covered the tale of Kemp trying to close a county's black voting precincts, forcing black voters to drive or walk many miles to predominantly white polling locations. The truth? The Democratic county commissioners and Democrat-controlled local board of elections hired a consultant to review polling locations for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The consultant recommended consolidating several locations deemed unfriendly to handicapped voters. The locations were all the Republican precincts that voted for Donald Trump. The Democrat majority precincts were not touched.

The Associated Press reported the story of a woman who was denied voter registration because of Georgia's "exact match" law that requires a voter exactly match their voter registration form to the information on their driver's license. This voter had a hyphenated last name and she was denied voter registration because she failed to include the hyphen. The truth? She was actually denied voter registration because she had already registered to vote and the computer system flagged her new registration as a duplicate. The Associated Press never corrected the story.

53,000 voters had their voter registration paperwork held up as "pending voters," according to the same Associated Press story. They claim it overwhelmingly impacted minority voters. The truth? There was a surge of minority voter registrations, so they were

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